



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2021

## MOTION

### Health System

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.31 pm): Labor's economic plan for Queensland is one that is deep in deception and full of trickery.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Apologies, member, but your own side is interjecting and making it difficult for me to hear.

**Dr ROWAN:** Labor's economic plan for Queensland is one that is deep in deception and full of trickery. More than anything else, Labor's sheer incompetence when it comes to a lack of service delivery is best illustrated by the current state of Queensland's public hospitals. Labor's failings in health have spanned multiple Labor state governments. Queenslanders are seeing a health and public hospital system that mirrors the worst of the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments. I refer to previous Labor ministers for health Wendy Edmond, Gordon Nuttall—I know that the member for Maroochydore will remember the sheer incompetence of those two Labor ministers—and Geoff Wilson and their bumbling management of the health system in Queensland. Now under the Palaszczuk state Labor government we have had three of the worst health ministers in the members for Woodridge, Murrumba and Redcliffe. We are seeing the leadership provided by health ministers in Queensland decline over time.

The motion moved by the Liberal National Party shadow minister for health and ambulance services references many shocking and terrible patient experiences in our public hospital system. There is no doubt that the system is in crisis and that Labor is failing to act. Under Labor, ambulance ramping has returned. It has to be remembered that the former Liberal National Party government had eliminated ramping here in Queensland. In my electorate of Moggill, many residents rely on public hospitals such as the Ipswich Hospital, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the Princess Alexandra Hospital. I am hearing many terrible stories about what is happening with ambulance ramping. At the Ipswich Hospital ramping is at 49 per cent; at the Princess Alexandra Hospital ambulance ramping is at 34 per cent; and at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital ambulance ramping is now at over 50 per cent.

Given serious matters related to a lack of emergency department resourcing as well as a critical lack of inpatient beds across our public hospitals, access block is only getting worse for patients with serious medical and health conditions. Those patients are not able to be admitted within clinically recommended time frames. Certainly that is jeopardising outcomes for those patients.

These real stories and experiences of Queenslanders that are included in the motion are truly disturbing; however, they are just the tip of the iceberg. I have been contacted by many local residents in the electorate of Moggill, all of whom felt compelled to reach out to me and speak up about their own personal experiences. Recently a resident of Kenmore told me they are now ashamed to be a

Queenslander. They have lived in Australia for 36 years and in Queensland for more than two decades and have never seen a more incompetent government than the Palaszczuk state Labor government. This resident has a brother, a pensioner with serious neurological—

**Government members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** They laugh at this, Mr Deputy Speaker. They laugh at these serious issues in relation to patients who have serious conditions. They do not care. This is the hallmark of this Labor government. This Labor government knows that there are patients who have been jeopardised, whose clinical care is being affected, but Labor members opposite laugh at the experiences of these patients. They do not believe them. They come into this place and reject the experiences of these patients.

Health professionals are contacting me all the time—doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, GPs, medical specialists and others. The health department is leaking like a sieve. They are calling out for help as well, because they do not have a government that will listen to them and give them the resources, the structure and the governance models to make Queensland's health system work. It is time this Labor government stepped up to the mark and backed patients here in Queensland. It is time it resourced the health system and ensured that frontline clinicians get the resources they need.

I heard the member for Bancroft talk about our hardworking clinicians. They are hardworking clinicians, but they are being let down by a Labor government that does not care about them. This Labor government has recklessly abandoned frontline clinicians, patients and Queenslanders. Queenslanders are contacting the opposition and asking for help. They are crying out for help. At the AMA past presidents meeting and the Rural Doctors Association annual conference, all clinicians will be talking about this Labor government and its staggering level of incompetence to provide for the people and the patients of Queensland—in Brisbane, on the Gold Coast, on the Sunshine Coast or right across Queensland. It is time those opposite stopped laughing about these matters, fixed the health system and actually worked hard to support clinicians, patients and all Queenslanders. Every Queenslanders deserves nothing less.